

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph [0034] as follows:

In the present embodiment, the on-off control signal is generated as follows. Turn-on accelerator 20 includes a timer 28 coupled to receive a "start laser signal" as an input signal. In most systems, the host computer sends a start laser signal to the laser diode system to turn the laser diode on when the laser diode has been turned off. The start laser signal can also be a power-on-reset signal. For example, the host system may experience a fault which may cause the laser diode to be turned-off. When the host computer clears the fault, the host computer will issue a start laser signal to turn the laser diode back on. In the present embodiment, the start laser signal represents any signal that is issued to laser diode system 10 instructing the laser diode system to turn on the laser diode. Timer 28 is triggered by the start laser signal and asserts a time-on signal T_{on} at its output terminal. Timer 28 provides a preselected time duration before deasserting the time-on signal T_{on} . The time-on signal T_{on} is coupled to one input of a logic circuit 24. In the present embodiment, timer 28 is a counter which, upon being triggered by the start laser signal, will count down for the preselected time duration.

Please amend paragraph [0069] as follows:

In the embodiments described above with reference to Figures 1 and 9, close loop control of the laser turn-on acceleration is provided through the use of a comparator monitoring the feedback signal and the command signal while a timer circuit is included to set the maximum allowable time the boost current I_{start} can be applied to accelerate the turn-on operation of the laser turn. In the embodiments shown in Figures 1 and 9, the timer circuit functions as a safety switch to disable the boost current after certain maximum allowable time, regardless of whether the power level of the laser diode has reached the commanded power level. Furthermore, depending on the implementation of the logic circuit for generating the on-off control signal for the current source, the timer circuit also functions to ensure that the turn-on accelerator circuit is disabled after the prescribed time period from the start laser signal so that drifting of the feedback signal would not cause the I_{start} current source to turn back on by the comparator of the turn-on accelerator circuit. This is particularly important when an one-shot logic circuit is not used to implement the logic circuit for generating the on-off control signal. For example, when an AND gate or a NAND gate is

used to implement the logic circuit, drifting of the feedback signal after laser turn-on can cause jittering of the on-off control signal.